

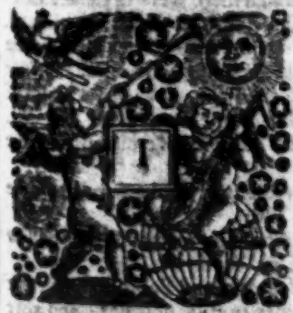


SATURDAY, August 12. 1731.

THE following Narrative requires but little Introduction; a long one is therefore omitted, that our Readers may have more of the Matter of Fact. We hope every Englishman, that's not a Villain, nor a Friend to Villains, will be obliged to us for this Publication, which might otherwise have never been made: If we run a Risk by it in our private Circumstances, which nothing could engage us to but the Love of our Country; we hope, while we are Subservient to that, we have nothing to fear from honest Men and Britons: To God and them therefore we commit our Cause, nor dread the Consequence.

Here we find the Source of all our Misery and *Woe*; here we see who have been Traitors, Harpies, and Parricides; who their Aiders, Confederates, and Abettors; to whom we owe the National Calamities we labour under; and who has contributed to destroy us at Home, and make us contemptible Abroad. Here appears the Cause of the Widows Sighs, the Orphans Tears, the Ruin of Families, the Distress of Millions, the sinking of Credit, the Disfranchisement of Trade, the Lowering our Stocks! Here we see who have been Lovers of the Nation's Wealth, and squandered away our Treasure to help to undo us: Here we see the Reason of the Hardships the poor Annuitants suffer by: Here we see who have built private Fortunes at the Publick Expence: Here we see to the Bottom of the fatal Wound our dear Country has received; and They stand confess who gave the Blow. In a Word; Here we see to whom GRACE has abounded, and who stood in need of INDEMNITY.

#### EXAMINATIONS Taken by the COMMITTEE OF SECRECY; with an Account of what appeared to them thereupon.



IN the Progress of their Enquiry, the Committee found it attended with many Difficulties. In some of the Books produced before them, false and fictitious Entries were made: In others, Entries with Blanks; in others, Entries with Rasures and Alterations; and in others, Leaves were torn out: They found further, that some Books had been destroyed, and others taken away or secreted; nevertheless, the Committee were enabled to lay some Matters of Importance before the House for their present Consideration.

The first Matter that offered it self to the Consideration of the Committee, was a Scene of Iniquity and Corruption; the Discovery of which the Committee conceived to be of the highest Importance, to the Honour of Parliaments, and the Security of his Majesty's Government.

The Committee observed, in the Account laid before the House, by the then Court of Directors of the South-Sea Company, pursuant to the Order of the 23rd of December last; that the Company were therein supposed to have received the Sum of One Million Two Hundred Fifty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-five Pounds, upon Account of Stock sold, to the amount of Five Hundred Seventy-four Thousand Five Hundred Pounds: Whereupon the Committee ordered the Company's Cash-Book to be laid before them; and upon Inspection thereof, they found at Fol. 120 and 121, the several Entries of Stock, as sold for the Company, annexed at the End of this Report, No. 1. The Total of which Entries amounts to the said Sum of Five Hundred Seventy-four Thousand Five Hundred Pounds in Stock, and of One Million Two Hundred Fifty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-five Pounds in Cash; but it is very observable, that from the Article of the 21st of February 1719, unto that of the 2d of July 1720, both inclusive, there is no mention made of the Name of any Person whatsoever, to whom the Stock is supposed to be sold.

The whole Account comprehended in these two Pages of the Cash-Book, and Entered in this concealed Manner, appears

nevertheless to have been stated and ballanced by the Company's Committee of Treasury, without expressing the Day when such Accomps were stated, and are subscribed by Sir John Fellowes then Sub-Governour, Mr. Charles Fox then Deputy-Governour, Sir Lambert Blackwell, Sir Robert Chaplin, Sir Theodore Janssen, Mr. Jacob Sambridge, and Mr. Stephen Child, then Directors; all of them of the said Committee, and Sir Robert Chaplin, Sir Theodore Janssen, and Mr. Sambridge, at that Time Members of the House of Commons.

The Committee, upon this Occasion, took the Liberty to remind the House of a remarkable Period in the former Session of Parliament: That upon the 2d of February 1719, the House agreed to the Report of the Committee of the Whole House, appointed to consider of that Part of his Majesty's Speech which related to the Publick Debts; that the Proposals of the South-Sea Company should be accepted, and ordered a Bill to be brought in, pursuant to the said Resolution; which Bill having pass'd the House, and afterwards the House of Peers, had the Royal Assent upon Thursday the 7th of April, 1720.

The Committee, surprized to see so large an Account of Stock disposed of by the Company, before the passing the Bill to enable the Company to increase their Capital Stock and Funds, and before any Subscription or Redemption could be made, whereby their Capital Stock was increased, proceeded to examine carefully into that Transaction.

And upon Examination of the late Sub and Deputy-Governours, and the late Directors of the South-Sea Company, Mr. John Knigge, then Cashier, Mr. Robert Surman, then Deputy-Cashier, Mr. John Grigby, then Accomptant, Mr. Charles Locker then second Accomptant, and Mr. Matthew Weymssell, Broker, it manifestly appeared to the Committee, that the Company, at that Time, was not possess'd of such a Quantity of Stock, whereof they could then make an actual Sale and Transfer; the Company having, at that Time, in their own Right, only a small Quantity of Stock, not exceeding Twenty-five Thousand Pounds, or Thirty Thousand Pounds at the most; and upon Inspection of the Transfer Book at that Time, as well as upon the Examination of the before-mentioned Persons the Committee could not find any Transfer made by the Company of any Part of that great Quantity of Stock at the Times specified in the Cash-Book, (excepting to the Duke of Portland, the Lord de la War, and the Honourable John Wess, Esq; who sold their Annuities to the Company) and no Account of any Transfers of such Stock has as yet been given into the House, altho by their Order it was expressly required.

Upon

Upon farther Examination of the Persons before-mentioned, the Committee discovered, That this supposed Sale of Stock was colourably Entered in the Book for the Benefit of Persons, whose Names were designed to be concealed, with Intention to make an Interest in Favour of the Company, and to facilitate the Acceptance of the South-Sea Proposals, and then passing of the Bill, which were at that Time depending in Parliament; and to that End the late Sub and Deputy-Governors, Sir John Blane, Mr. Gibbon, Mr. Chester, and Mr. Halditch late Directors, who had the Care of soliciting the passing of the Bill, together with Mr. Knight the Cashier, had the Power of disposing of this Stock.

And the general Method by which this Practice was carried on, was this,

This Stock was first down, as sold at several Days, and at several Prices, from 150 per Cent. to 125 per Cent. and was from those Times to be esteemed as taken in or holden by the Company, for the Benefit of the pretended Purchasers, altho' no mutual Agreement was then made for the Delivery or Acceptance of the Stock at any certain Time; and although no Money was paid down, nor any Deposit or other Security given to the Company for Payment, by the supposed Purchasers: So that if the Price of Stock had fallen, as might be expected if the Scheme had miscarried, no Loss could have been sustained by them; but if the Price of Stock should advance (as it actually did by the Success of the Scheme) the Difference by the advanced Price was to be made good to the pretended Purchasers; and accordingly the Account of such Stock was made up and adjusted with Mr. Knight, and the Money arising by the Difference of the Price between the Times of such taking in, or holding of the Stock, and the making of such Adjustments, was paid or allowed out of the Company's Cash to the pretended Purchasers; but no Entries of such Adjustments, or of the Names of the Persons with whom the same were made, appear'd to the Committee, in any of the Books of the Company.

Sir Thomas Janssen affirmed, that when the said Account in the Cash Book was laid by Mr. Knight before their Committee of Treasury, to be pass'd and sign'd, an Objection being made, that Blanks were made for the Buyers of this Stock, the late Sub-Governour and Mr. Knight said there were Reasons for passing the Account in that manner, and that the Stock was disposed of to Persons, whose Names were not proper to be known to a great many, but at a fit Time a perfect Account thereof should be made up, and that if the Bill did pass, the Stock would be well sold.

Mr. Robert Surman declared, that about the 3d of April 1720, Mr. Knight, the Cashier, shewed him that Account of Stock sold in the Cash Books, Fol. 120 and 121, and told the Examinant, that there was a Committee appointed to look into the State of the Cash that Night; and that he (Mr. Knight) having thereby charged himself with the Value of so large a Quantity of Stock sold, would appear to have a great Sum of Money in his Hands, which he really had not; and therefore said, he would write off a supposed Sum of eight hundred thousand Pounds, as lent by the Company to sundry, upon four hundred thousand Pounds Stock; and Mr. Knight did then accordingly enter the same with his own Hand Fol. 121. of the said Cash Book, in the following Words.

1720. April 3.

By Loan to sundry on Security of four hundred thousand Pound South-Sea Stock, at an Interest of 5 per Cent. 800,000

That Mr. Robert Surman further declared, he did not know that any Part of the said Money was really lent, but the Entry was made to that Effect by Mr. Knight, with an Intention to answer in Part the Account of Stock sold; he believed that the Entry in the same Book written by Mr. Knight, as follows Fol. 121.

April 14. By Account of Loan, on South-Sea

Stock, lent to sundry on Security of one hundred thousand Pounds Stock, at 150, at an Interest of 5 per Cent. 150,000

as to the greatest Part, if not the whole of that Sum, was entered with the same View; and the Examinant at that time took it that this Stock entered, as sold in the Cash Book, was not paid for; and for that Reason Mr. Knight entered these Sums of eight hundred thousand Pounds, and two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds as actually disbursed, to help to make a Balance upon the Account, as it now stands in the Cash Book.

That the Examinant observing the said Entry of Stock sold, Mr. Knight told him that it was a Transaction of a private Nature, and that a great Part of it was disposed of to Persons of Distinction.

Mr. Apsel, one of the late Directors, likewise declared, that he believed the said Article of Loan of eight hundred thousand

Pounds, on four hundred thousand Pounds Stock, was entered as a Blind to answer the Account of Receipts on the other Side of the Cash Book, for that he could not find any Minute thereof in the other Book of the Company.

Mr. Stephen Child said, that he took the Articles of Stock bought and sold, in the Cash Book, to be fictitious, and to be entered in that Manner, merely to make a Balance.

Whilst the Committee had this Matter under Examination, viz. upon the 27th Day of January last, the Court of Directors (pursuant to the Orders of the 17th of December preceding, requiring a particular Account of the Stock sold, and by whom, and to whom transferred) laid before the House a Book containing an Account of Stock sold, as then received from their Committee of Treasury, without mentioning that any Part of such Stock was actually transferred.

And the Committee examining into that Account, Sir John Blane (from whom the Committee received the first material Informations, the late Sub and Deputy-Governors, Mr. Gibbon, Mr. Apsel, Mr. Chester, late Directors, and Mr. Robert Surman informed them, that they believed, and that it was generally so understood amongst the Directors, that the said Account laid before this House, was not a true Account; and that there were many fictitious Names therein, as the Names of several Brokers and others, who were made use of to cover the Names of other Persons, who had the real Benefit of such Stock, and who, nevertheless, were not mentioned in that Account; but that the Names of Persons of Distinction or Condition therein contained are real.

Mr. Apsel declared, that pressing Mr. Knight upon the repeated Orders of the Directors, to make up the Account of this Stock, Mr. Knight answered, That he could not comply with these Orders, without giving up Forty or Fifty of the Company's best Friends.

Mr. Robert Surman gave the Committee a further Explanation of the forming this Account, as followeth:

That since the Order of the House, requiring this Account, he assisted Mr. Knight in preparing a Draught thereof; and by Mr. Knight's Direction, he wrote down several Names, which Mr. Knight read to him out of a Book with a green Cover, wherein Mr. Knight had kept an Account of this Stock entered in the Cash Book of the Company, and also of Subscriptions, but believed Mr. Knight did not give him all the true Names, because Mr. Knight sometimes turned over a Leaf or Two, without giving him a Name, although there were in those Leaves Names of Persons with whom an Account was there entered. And Mr. Surman said further, That he remembered that in the same Book, at the Head of a large Account, wherein the Debit Side came near to the Bottom of the Page, he saw the Name of John Aylmer, Esq; late Chancellor of the Exchequer; but Mr. Knight turned over that Leaf, and did not give him that Name to insert in the Account.

That at the Head of another Account, in the same Book, he saw the Names of James Craggs, Esq;

That at the Head of another Account in that Book, he saw the Name of Charles Stanhope, Esq;

All which were Accounts of Stock and Subscriptions; but Mr. Knight left out all these Names in this Account; and after it was thus drawn out from the Green Book, and from Leaves which Mr. Knight thus delivered to this Examinant, the Sums not coming right, Mr. Knight made several Alterations in the Names and Prices, and inserted other Names and Prices, to frame the Account in the Manner it now appears.

Mr. Francis Hewes, one of the late Directors, likewise declared, that about the Time of making the last *Midsummer* Dividend, Mr. Knight informed him, that he (Mr. Knight) had Stock for John Aylmer, Esq; and that he had an Account of Stock depending with Mr. Aylmer: And the Examinant believed, that such Stock had been taken in some Time before, and that Mr. Knight sold such Stock with the Company's Money.

And that the Examinant added, that he believed the Reason of Entering the Five Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Five Hundred Pounds Stock, sold in the Cash Book, was to give Persons an Opportunity of having Stock at Low Prices; and that great Part of the Stock sold, was disposed of for the forwarding the Bill.

The Committee proceeded to examine Sir John Blane, concerning the Disposal of the fictitious South-Sea Stock before-mentioned; He acquainted them, that the latter End of February or the Beginning of March last, Mr. Knight told him, and as he remembered, the late Deputy-Governor, Mr. Gibbon and Mr. Chester; that Mr. Craggs, the Post-Master, desired to have Fifty Thousand Pounds Stock bought or taken in at the current Price, viz. Fifty Thousand Pounds for the Earl of \_\_\_\_\_ and his Friends, and the remaining Thirty Thousand Pounds for Mr. Craggs and his Friends; that this Request was complied with, and Eighty Thousand Pounds of the Company's Stock was directed



to be applied accordingly; which the Examinant took to be part of the Sum of One Hundred Thirteen Thousand Pounds entered in the Company's Cash Book, as sold on the 27th Day of February 1719. at 175 per Cent. That no Money appear'd to have been paid for the above-mentioned Eighty Thousand Pounds. But Sir John Blunt said, that some time in March, Mr. Knight showed him a Note for the Fifty Thousand Pounds, signed, which Mr. Knight said, was the Earl of Head: and the Examinant believed it to be so, having seen his Lordship's Hand to Treasury Warrants and Orders. The Note, to the best of his Remembrance, was to the Effect following: That whereas Mr. Knight had bought several Parcels of South-Sea Stock for the of the Particulars of which were therein specify'd, amounting in the whole to Fifty Thousand Pounds Stock, at several Prices, the Money payable for which amounts to more than Eighty Thousand Pounds, his Lordship promised to pay the said Money with Interest, at a certain Time therein mentioned. That since the beginning of the Session of Parliament, the Examinant and Mr. Knight discoursing about the Company's fictitious Stock, and particularly concerning the Earl of Head's part of it, the Examinant asked how he would conceal that? Mr. Knight replied, He would go through Thick and Thin rather than discover it. That the Examinant did not know of any Money paid, or Note, or other Security given by Mr. Craggs for the Thirty Thousand Pounds, residus of the Eighty Thousand Pound Stock.

Mr. Edward Gibbon, another of the late Directors, said, That Mr. Knight told him, that some time in February 1719. he was to supply and furnish the Earl of Head with Fifty Thousand Pound Stock, at between 170 and 180 per Cent. which was the Price of Stock at that time. Mr. Joy, late Deputy Governor, declared, that Mr. Knight, about Ten or a Eleven Months since, told him, that about One Hundred Thousand Pound Stock must be reserved for Mr. Craggs at the Post-Office, in Trust for others: Whereupon the Examinant asking, what, for the Earl? He replied, Not for himself, but his Friends. Mr. Joy said further, that Mr. Knight told him, since the Enquiry began, that the Sum promised to Mr. Craggs, was but Thirty Thousand Pounds.

The before-named James Craggs, Esq; being examined, said, That he did never apply to Mr. Knight, or any other Person whatsoever, to have any of the Company's Stock, or to have any Stock taken in for him by the Company. Mr. Richard Holdridge, another of the late Directors, said, That he was told by Mr. Knight, that Fifty Thousand Pounds of the Company's Stock, said to be sold, was held for a noble Lord in a high Station. That he apprehended, and believed, that by the Lord in a high Station, Mr. Knight meant, the Earl of Head. But Mr. Knight being since asked about it, said, That it did not go that Way, but it went another Way, or Words to that Effect.

The Committee, in the Course of Sir John Blunt's Examination, asked him, Whether he knew of any more of the Company's Stock disposed of, in order to facilitate the Passing of the Bill? He answered, That he believed the Dutchess of the two Nieces, and the Countess of , were the Persons, for whose Benefit Thirty Six Thousand Pounds Stock was entered in the Company's Cash Book, as sold on the 4th of February 1719. That some time after the 4th of February 1719. and while the said Scheme or Bill was depending in the House, Mr. Secretary Craggs, in Westminster-Hall, spoke to him, and to the late Sub-Governor and Deputy-Governors, and to Mr. Gibbon and Mr. Chester, on the Behalf of the Persons above-named; and said, he really thought it was for the Interest of the Company, to engage Persons of their Rank to be concerned in it, or to that effect. Whereupon it was agreed that they should have Thirty Six Thousand Pounds of the Company's Stock at the Price mentioned, which was 150 per Cent. although the Market Price, as he believed, was then somewhat higher. That he took it for granted the Agreement was soon made good.

That Mr. Knight had the Management of this Affair, and us'd to keep an Account of the Stock thus disposed of in a Book of his own. But he then apprehended the Dutchess of and Countess of did not either of them know that the other was to have any Stock.

Sir John Blunt, late Sub-Governor, on his Examination, said, that whilst the Proposal for the South-Sea Company, or the Bill in the House of Commons was depending, Mr. Knight told him that Mr. Secretary Craggs proposed, that Twelve Thousand Pounds of the Company's Stock should be disposed of to the Dutchess of and Twelve Thousand Pounds more to the Dutchess's Two Nieces. The Examinant agreed they should have the Stock, paying the Market Price, which was then above 1000 per Cent. But Mr. Knight telling the Examinant, that he thought they were incited to the Stock, from the first Applica-

tion made for it, at which time the Price was about 150 per Cent. this Examinant confessed they should have at it that Price. He added further, that Mr. Secretary Craggs did, at his Office, recommend the above-mentioned Proposal; and said, that it would be for the Service of the Company to have such Persons Proprietors. He said likewise, that the same Proposal was, at another time, made to him and others, by Mr. Secretary Craggs in Westminster-Hall. That the Examinant and the Deputy Governor waited on the Dutchess of , and acquainted her with the Proposal, and that Mr. Knight should have Orders to follow her Directions, and desired her good Offices on the Company's Behalf. That the Dutchess received them civilly, and thanked them for it. The Examinant said also, that a Letter was wrote by Mr. Knight, to the Countess of , signed by the Examinant and the Deputy-Governor, to acquaint her with the said Proposal. And that she wrote an Answer, signifying her Acceptance, but that he had lost the Letter. Mr. Edward Gibbon, another of the said Directors, being examin'd, declared, that whilst the South-Sea Bill was depending in the House, he was at a Conversation in Westminster-Hall; at which were present Mr. Secretary Craggs, the Sub and Deputy-Governors, and Mr. Chester; where Mr. Secretary proposed, that about Thirty Thousand Pounds Stock should be disposed of to certain Ladies, whose having Stock would be of Service to the Company, or to that Effect, which was consented to; and he believed they were Foreigners, but did not know their Names.

Mr. Joy, the late Deputy-Governor, informed the Committee, that sometime before the abovementioned Conversation in Westminster Hall, Mr. Knight told him Mr. Secretary Craggs had mentioned to him that it would be advisable to have some great Ladies concerned in the Company's Stock, and that they should have it at 150 per Cent. That soon after Sir John Fellows, Mr. Knight, and himself being at Mr. Secretary Craggs's Office, the same Proposal was again renewed by the Secretary, and was consented to by Sir John Fellows, Mr. Knight, and himself; he did not exactly remember the Proportions in which the Stock was to be divided; but on the best Recollection he could make, he thought the Dutchess of was to have Ten Thousand Pounds Stock, and the Countess of the like Sum, and the Dutchess's Nieces Five Thousand Pounds each.

Mr. Joy said also, that there was a Conversation with Mr. Secretary Craggs in Westminster-Hall concerning the abovementioned Proposal; that he could not recollect what then passed, but remembered that soon after Sir John Fellows and himself was introduced to the Dutchess of by Mr. Secretary Craggs, who interpreted between them; that they acquainted her with the Offer, and that Directions would be given to Mr. Knight to Transfer the Stock on Payment of the Money; that the Dutchess seemed well pleased with the Offer, thanked them, and wished them good Success.

He farther said, That talking with Mr. Knight, since this Enquiry began, said, That neither the Dutchess of nor her Nieces, had any Stock transferred to them, but that the Countess of had; to which Mr. Joy reply'd, that he did not Believe him.

Mr. Robert Chester, one of the late Directors, being examined likewise about the said Conversation in Westminster-Hall, concurred in Substance with what Sir John Fellows had before declared.

Sir John Blunt said likewise, That after his Examination on Friday the 27th of January last, Mr. Joy came to his Lodgings, and asked him, touching what had passed in his Examination before the Committee: That Sir John Blunt told him he had said nothing of the Ministry; what says Mr. Joy, nor of the Ladies neither? To which Sir John reply'd, that he had not.

That on Saturday the 28th of January last, soon after Sir John Blunt had been again examined by the Committee at the South Sea House, Mr. Joy came to him, and asked him what had passed? That Sir John told him he was under an Obligation of Secrecy; that he loved him very well, and that the best Way was to tell the whole Truth. What says Mr. Joy, of the Ladies and all? Yes, says Sir John, the Examination is very strict, and nothing but the Truth will do. Mr. Joy being examined by the Committee to the abovementioned Conversation, between him and Sir John Blunt, did admit that the Substance of it was true.

To be continued in our next.

CATO's Letters are discontinued till the finishing of the Examinations above.

N. B. It's doubt not but the foregoing will stand our sufficiency Enough for convincing this World, what's come to Hand from JUBA, LUCIUS, CASSIUS, MANLEY, and all our other kind Correspondents.

FOREIGN

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

**T**HE Plague continues to rage in a very violent Manner at Arles; but as 'tis much abated in many other Places, they begin to hope for a Relaxation of that dreadful Distemper.

Things have taken such a sudden Turn in favour of the Peace between the Swedes and Muscovites, that they write us now, that by the very next Post we may expect to hear that 'tis actually concluded.

Affairs continue quiet on the side of Poland, and they give us now some Reason to hope that a War with the Turks in Europe will be prevented.

The Imperial Court seem to take some Umbrage at the Proceedings of the Court of Spain; but of what Nature they are, is not publick enough for us to enter upon yet; we must therefore adjourn that Matter till further Information arrives.

## LONDON.

**T**HE Prosecution of the Scire Facias upon the Bubbles being Superfeded, as 'tis said, by the Act of Pardon, those Bubbles begin to Revive in Exchange-Alley, and several of 'em sell for Four and Five per Cent. and continue to rise every Day.

A large Body of the Annuitants appear'd on Saturday last before the Parliament House, and delivered to the Members a written Paper, containing the following Words, viz. *Pray do Justice to the Annuitants, who lent their Money on Parliamentary Security.* They were so tumultuous in their Outcries to the Members for Justice, that the House sent for several Justices of Peace and Constables, and ordered the former to disperse them; which, however, could not be done effectually, without reading the Proclamation. After which the Justices of Peace were called for to the Bar of the House of Commons, and ordered, not only to suppress the then present Tumult, but to take Care and suppress all others that may happen for the future. The Constables laid hold of Two, or Three, who did not immediately disperse, and threatened to send them to the Gate-House, but did not. There was a great many Women and Children, as well as Men, who made an Outcry for Right and Property, and to do Justice to the Widows and Orphans. Most People indeed pity their Circumstances: But few, however, vindicate this Method of Proceeding.

One Baker is committed to Newgate for concealing his Effects, after he had been declared a Bankrupt, and been several times examined.

Capt. Woods Rogers, late Governor of Providence, is returned from thence by the Way of Bristol, in a Carolina Ship, and will be in Town this Week.

We are assured, after all, that their will be a Review of the Guards before his Majesty, in a very few Days.

The Managers of the York-Building Corporation, propose to draw the Lottery that is now on foot in their Favour, the Week after all the Payments on their Tickets are compleated.

Last Friday Sir Nathan Wright, formerly Keeper of the Great Seal, died at his Seat in Warwickshire.

We hear, that there will speedily be a Reduction of the Twenty Six Companies of Invalids, that now lie in the several Ports of this Kingdom.

On Tuesday Night a Person was committed to Newgate for the Murder, as 'tis said, of his own Brother, at Shadwell.

We hear, that some eminent Merchants in Town, having been largely admitted into Co-partnership with the Scots Gentlemen concerned in the Fishery at Seaforth, and the neighbouring Coasts, have instructed, them 'tis said, in effectual Measures to improve that Trade, and baffle and disappoint the Dutch, who have long practised on that Fishery, to the great Detriment of these Gentlemen; but the latter part of this Story seems highly improbable.

The East India Company have given Notice, that they are ready to receive Proposals to the 18th Instant, from all Owners and Commanders of Ships, for the Hire of their Ships to India for the Year ensuing.

On Tuesday next being the 15th Instant, at the Pay Office in Broad-street, will be recalled His Majesty's Ship *Rupert*, from the 16th of March 1717 to the 10th of January 1720. And the *Rippon* from the 17th of March 1717 to the 16th of January 1720.

We have farther Account from Leeds, in Yorkshire, of the happy increase of the Woollen Manufacture in those Parts; their being at this time a greater Demand for their Cloth, and a greater Number of Hands employ'd in the Manufacture, than have been known these Twenty Years.

We are told, that the Fishpond Undertaking, for bringing Fish alive to Town, has answered the most sanguine Expectations of the Gentlemen concerned in it, who push it on with great

Vigour, and have made considerable Improvements since they first set out; their Expences are now pretty well fixed and certain, the Charges of One Voyage, for Men, Provisions, &c. generally amounting to Fifty Pounds and no more.

We hear, that the Master-Bakers have waited on the Lord Mayor with a Petition to raise the Price of Bread, but his Lordship rejected it; and told them, there was Corn in abundance in store, and a great Crop upon the Ground.

Last Week a Nobleman's Porter being in Charge with his Lordship's House, in Golden-Square, by himself, was found dead in it. It's thought he had been dead at least Two Days in that House, before they found him.

The Bristol Mail has been robbed this Week, and the Letters from thence and the Bach taken away.

On Thursday next, being the 17th Instant, will begin to be paid at the Treasurer of the Navy's Office in Broad-street, the Half Pay due to the Sea Officers, from the 1st of July 1710 to the 31st of December 1710: On the 17th the Captains, on the 18th the Lieutenants, on the 19th the Masters.

Last Week was seized in a Farmers Yard near Dartford in Kent, a quantity of Tea to the Value of 350 l.

They are now paying at the Bank, the Midsummer Dividend on Bank Annuities of Nine Hundred and One Hundred Sixty Nine Thousand Pounds at Five per Cent.

The Captain of a French Ship arrived at Leghorn, whose Name is *Guerin* and who is come in 30 Days from Smyrna, reports, that Tauris, the great City of the Persian Empire in Asia, not far from the Borders of Turkey and the Caspian Sea, formerly the Metropolis of the Persian Empire, and the Residence of their Kings, which is now removed from thence to Isfahan, was on the 26th of April last entirely swallow'd up by an Earthquake, together with above 240,000 Souls.

On Tuesday there was a General Court of the York Buildings Company, when they deliver'd Conditions for their Sale of Annuities upon single Lives to the amount of 13000 l. per Annum, to be disposed of by Way of Lottery, pursuant to the Power granted them by Parliament; in which Scheme there is to be Four Blanks to a Prize, the lowest Prize 24 s. per Annum, and the highest 500 l. to be drawn in the Manner of the Government Lottery 1719. The Tickets 3 l. a piece, 30 s. paid at the taking out of the Ticket, and 30 s. on the 9th of Sept. next, and the remaining 40 s. by the 7th of October. The Lottery is divided into two Parts, the second of which is to determine the drawing of the first.

About Ten Days ago died the Lady Brownlow, at her Seat at Bolton, in Lincolnshire.

The Beginning of last Week a young Lady, upon the Point of Marriage, going to demand her Fortune, a very ample One, of her Guardian, near Long-Acre, he put her kindly off, till he had found Means, in Two or Three Days, to have her betrayed into a Mad-House, giving out, that she was out of her Senses; but the Neighbourhood, knowing the Motive for the last: For the young Lady before this Misfortune, had Discretion enough; tho' the Villainy of this Harpy, the Disappointment of her conjugal Happiness, together with the Miseries of her Confinement, have now bereaved her of her Senses to all Intents and Purposes.

By Letters from New York we learn, that his Excellency William Burner, Esq; the Governor, was lately married to the Daughter of Mr. Vomborn, an eminent Merchant there.

The Dutchess of Kendal is going to repair and beautify, at her own Expence, the Swedish Church in Trinity Lane, which her Grace frequents every Sunday.

Mr. Law's Brother arrived here last Friday from Paris.

Yesterday one Mr. Cole, an Exchange Broker, dispatched himself in a very uncommon manner, viz. by strangling himself with his Girdle tied to his Bed Post. He was found dead lying across his Bed, at full length. This is another Accident imputed to the Score of South-Sea Misfortunes.

Mr. Noel (whom we mentioned lately to be entered as an Ensign in the Guards) was preferred to a Colours in the Lord Cadogan's Regiment.

On Thursday, the 11th Instant, the South-Sea Company will expose to Sale, at their House in Broad-street, Hides in the Hair, from Buenos Ayres.

The South-Sea Company are now entering Mariners at their House in Broad-street, for their Service in the South-Sea.

It's said, but with what reason we cannot tell, that the Public Trade is in a fair way to be revived.

On Tuesday last a Fire began at a Basket-maker's House in Brook's-Market, but sufficient Help being at Hand, it was extinguish'd before it got Head, and burnt only one Room.

The Lord Chancellor having nominated one, to succeed Mr. Smith, as Minister of St. Mildred Woodstreet, the Parish joining on it as their Right, have entered a Caveat in the Court against the said Nomination.



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